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8
ACTION EA-19

INFO OPR-02 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 NSAE-00 L-03 INR-07 P-04
CIA-04 DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 AID-30 NIC-01 ACDA-17 SAH-03 SAL-01
IO-13 PRS-01 /078 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Igube DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (3)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

O 231250Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5182
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3894
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2248
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 779

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SAIGON 3855 - Pol 14 Viets

COMPLETION OF SECOND ROUND OF TELEVISION APPEARANCES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WAS POSTPONED FROM AUGUST 14 TO 16 OWING TO CITY-WIDE POWER FAILURE. A NUMBER OF SAIGON DISTRICTS CONTINUED EXPERIENCE POWER SHORTAGES EVENING 16TH AND THUS MANY SAIGON TV VIEWERS, INCLUDING OURSELVES, RECEIVED ONLY PORTIONS OF BROADCASTS BY SLATES 7 THROUGH 11. FROM VARIOUS

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SOURCES WE HAVE PIECED TOGETHER MOST OF WHAT CANDIDATES SAID THAT EVENING AND REPORT THE HIGHLIGHTS BELOW.

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2. NGUYEN HOA HIEP REVIEWED HIS PROGRAM AND SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS ON IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION TO VIET-NAM'S PROGRESS TOWARDS SELF-DETERMINATION. VU HONG KHANH DEVOTED HIS APPEARANCE TO DISCUSSION OF "DONG HA INCIDENT" ACCUSING GOVERNMENT OF HAVING PURPOSELY ENGINEERED AFFAIR. NGUYEN DINH QUAT REMINDED VIEWERS OF HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST DIEM AND REPEATED HIS NOW FAMILIAR VIEWS ON DEPLORABLE STATE OF THE NATION.

3. GENERAL THIEU'S PRESENTATION WAS PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING. HE APPEARED WITHOUT PREMIER KY AND DEVOTED ENTIRE SESSION TO POSITION OF HIS SLATE ON THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE. THIEU PLACED BLAME FOR WAR SQUARELY ON NORTH VIETNAMESE, CHARACTERIZING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH AS PART OF OVER-ALL COMMUNIST PLAN TO SEIZE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PENINSULA. THIEU EXPLAINED THAT PRESENCE OF ALLIED TROOPS CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE FRENCH. FRENCH FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN COLONIAL PRESENCE; ALLIES ARE HERE TO HELP SMALL NATION FEND OFF AGGRESSION.

4. THIEU WENT ON TO SAY THAT GVN HAS INDICATED MANY TIMES WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH HANOI LEADERS TO DISCUSS

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QUESTION OF PEACE. GVN, HOWEVER, IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT HANOI'S PROPOSAL THAT GVN NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT. FRONT IS MERE INSTRUMENT OF HANOI AND TO RECOGNIZE IT WOULD BE TO ADMIT THIS IS A CIVIL WAR THUS RENDERING MEANINGLESS AND ILLEGAL FREE WORLD ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH.

5. ON SUBJECT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM'S GOALS, THIEU SAID SOUTH VIETNAMESE DO NOT COVET ANY PART OF NORTH VIET-NAM'S TERRITORY; NOR DOES SOUTH SEEK ANY MINISTRIES IN NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. ALL THE SOUTH WANTS IS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE. THIEU SAID HE HOPED THAT THE NORTH WOULD CALL OFF ITS INVASION OF THE SOUTH. THEN, ONCE PEACE BELOW 17TH PARALLEL GUARANTEED, TWO SIDES COULD DISCUSS REUNIFICATION. QUESTION OF REUNIFICATION CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY FORCE, THIEU EMPHASIZED, BUT DEPENDS RAHTER ON GOOD-WILL OF NVN AND ON WHETHER IN FUTURE NORTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE REALLY FREE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE.

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6. THEIS CONCLUDED THAT AT PRESENT SVN IS STRONG ON MILITARY FRON AND COMMUNISTS CANNOT WIL MILITARY VICTORY. POLITICAL BASE MUST, HOWEVER, BE STRENGTHENED TO COPE WITH COMMUNISTS FROM THE HAMLET LEVEL ON UP. ONCE THIS IS

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 3835 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCOMPLISHED, THEN COMMUNISTS WILL REALIZE THEY ONLY HAVE TWO CHOICES, EITHER TO QUIETLY ABANDON THEIR STRUGGLE LEAVING THE SOUTH TO LIVE IN PEACE, OR TO AGREE TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE A PEACE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. THIEU PROMISED, IF ELECTED, HIS SLATE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL SYSTEM OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

BUNKER

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